AFRICAN REPORT: Ethiopia/Ghana

Catholic Relief Services humanitarian effort as reported by Our Sunday Visitor, National Catholic Family Magazine • 1984

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photo by ANTHONY SUAU

CRS responds to drought, famine in Ethiopia and Ghana



ACROSS Africa today, 13 million people in 22 countries suffer the devastating effects of drought and famine. The situation is worse now than in 1973, when the last major drought struck the continent. This time, the range of destruction is broader; in 1973 it was concentrated in the area we soon came to know as the Sahel. This time, the countries affected are economically, politically and socially weaker than they were. Now, as then, the children, the aged and the ill suffer the most.

Catholic Relief Services, the overseas relief and development agency of American Catholics, is working with the people in half of the affected countries. In these, we have a day-to-day nutrition program helping mothers and young children attain and maintain good health. In response to the emergency, we have doubled the amount of food each mother receives so that more is available to share with other family members. We have also given funds for transporting food from the ports to where it is needed most, donated medicines and blankets and equipped farmers with seeds and handtools.

Although the current emergency encompasses 22 countries, we are concentrating our resources in Ethiopia, Mauritania, Ghana, Lesotho, Benin, Upper Volta, Togo and Senegal. In each place we are providing special aid to meet individual needs. For example, in Mauritania, we have given medicines, hired additional health workers, deepened existing wells and provided funds to transport the food across the desert terrain. In Lesotho, a small country in southern Africa, we helped build storage warehouses in the mountains so that food could be delivered safely before the winter snows fell.

Sometimes, we can get overwhelmed by the magnitude of such an emergency. Deaths by the thousand. Food by the ton. But then we look at a single child and the reality becomes personal and human again. In this special report, you'll see some of the individuals who comprise the statistics.

PERSPECTIVE

by FATHER VINCENT J. GIESE



A LETTER to the readers of Perspective.

From Vincent, a servant of Christ Jesus and a brother priest called to preach his good news.

May God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

First, I thank God, through Jesus Christ, for all of you because the whole world is hearing of your faith.

I have an obligation to all peoples, to the civilized and to the savage, to the educated and to the ignorant.

I write to you from Africa on behalf of myself and my companions, from this drought-stricken continent where 22 nations are facing a catastrophic food shortage. Our sister, Beth Griffin from Catholic Relief Services, New York, and our brother, John Zierten, photographer, send their greetings.

I ask you to hear them as you hear me because we have suffered long journeys together for the sake of the Gospel. Twice we have visited Africa, three times Central America, three times Poland, once Lebanon, and once the Far East where we have visited poor refugees from Cambodia and Laos in Thailand.

We want to remind you, brothers and sisters, of the trouble we had in Ghana and Ethiopia. We felt the sentence of death had been passed against us. But this happened so that we should rely not on ourselves, but only on God, who raises the dead.

I make an appeal to you to send a brother priest to Ghana to assist in the mission of our brother, Andrew, who is all alone as a pastor of a 2,000-family inner-city, poverty-ridden parish embracing 100,000 poor people in Accra, the capital of Ghana.

Andrew now uses a charcoal stove to cook on because there is no gas. One week he has gas, next week no water, the following week no electricity, and he doesn't know where to buy sugar and milk.

Our brother, Bishop Dominick Andoh, sends his greetings from Accra and the prayers of the fast-growing churches in Ghana, which now boasts 12 percent Catholics of the population of 12 million. Bishop Andoh offered us hospitality. "We don't have much, but what we have we give generously," he said. He speaks warmly of his people despite their terrible hardships.

Even after we arrived in Ethiopia, after a long journey from the west coast of Africa to the east coast, we did not have any rest. There were troubles everywhere, quarrels with the government officials, fears in our hearts. We were facing a Marxist government, which had overthrown Emperor Haile Selassie in 1974.

Furthermore, our hearts did ache at the sight of seven million people in the north being severely affected by drought and civil war in the regions of Eritrea, Tigre, Gonder and Wollo.

We want you to know what God's grace has done in the churches in Ethiopia. They are being severely tested by the current troubles, but their joy and generosity is great.

And so also are you rich in all you have: in faith, speech and knowledge, in your eagerness to help. We want you to be generous. For you know the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Rich as He was, He made himself poor for your sake, in order to make you rich by means of His poverty.

I am not trying to relieve others by putting a burden on you; but since you have plenty at this time, it is only fair that you should help those who are in need.

And now my brothers and sisters, good-bye. I long to visit you. Strive for perfection; listen to my appeals; agree with one another, and live in peace. And the God of love and peace be with you.

All God's people in Ghana and Ethiopia send you their greetings.

African Journal

by FATHER VINCENT J. GIESE, Visitor Editor in Chief

photos by JOHN ZIERTEN, Visitor Graphics Director

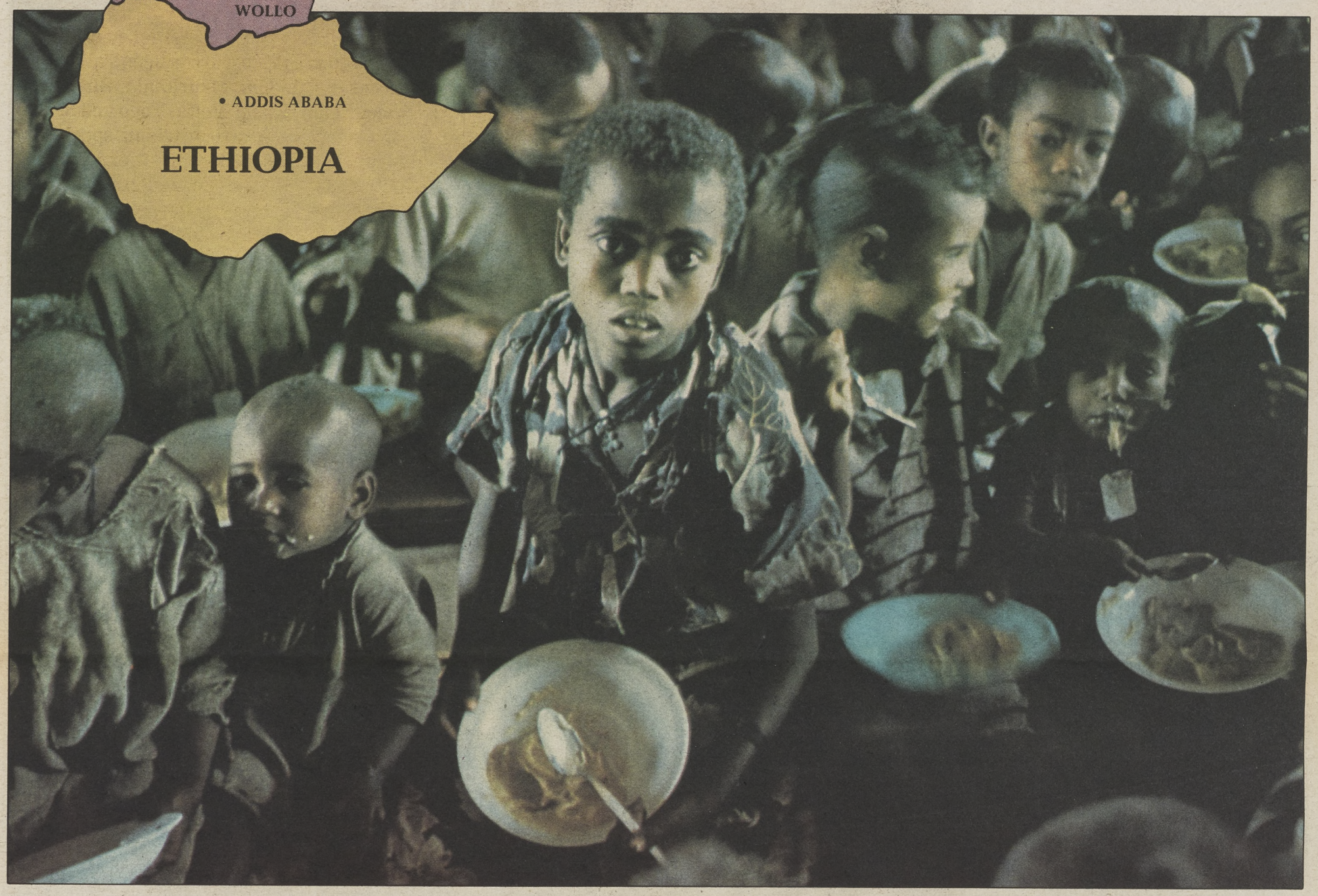


photo by ANTHONY SUAU

Famine returns to Ethiopia: 1983

Rise and fall of an empire

ETHIOPIA, a nation the size of Texas with nearly 40 million people, hardly calls itself an African nation.

Semitic people from Arabia settled in Ethiopia 3,000 years ago and had established an empire in the northeast before the time of Christ. The people were converted to Christianity by early in the fourth century.

Emperor Menelik II began to modernize the country in 1889 and regained many of the provinces lost in the 1600s after a series of wars against invading Muslims.

Emperor Menelik died in 1913, and in 1930 Ras Tafari, an heir to the throne, assumed the name of Emperor Haile Selassie, which means "Power of the Trinity."

Ethiopia has known widespread violence since the 1960s. Rebels in the north have fought a civil war against Ethiopian government troops. In the meantime, Somalia has claimed ownership of the Ogaden region of Ethiopia, and war has flared.

In 1977 Somalians in Ogaden staged a major revolt against Ethiopian rule. The Ethiopians were aided by Cuban troops and Russian military advisers. Sporadic fighting takes place yet today in Ogaden.

Haile Selassie's long reign ended in 1974 when military leaders overthrew him and made Ethiopia a socialist state.

Mengistu Haile Marlam is now chairman of the Ethiopian Marxist government and head of state. In practice, military leaders control the government, with a civilian cabinet.



Leper village outside Addis Ababa, where Catholic Relief Services provides food at a mother-child health center.



Thousands gather around a man distributing grain near Gonder at Arbaya. Photo by Anthony Suau

Drought and civil war

Ethiopia today is an extremely impoverished country where recent drought and continuing civil war in the north have compounded the misery of the people.

The Relief and Rehabilitation Commission of the Mengistu government estimates that more than seven million of Ethiopia's 38 million population are affected by the natural and man-made disorders. Some three million have been affected by the drought alone. Tens of thousands are at starvation level, and the United Nations Disaster Relief Organization (UNDRO) has declared the remainder of 1983 an emergency period.

Guerrilla warfare has continued in the north for more than 20 years, affecting the ability of farmers to plant, cultivate and harvest their crops.

Since Emperor Melenik II conquered the outlying areas and formed the empire of Ethiopia, provinces in the north have rebelled against being governed from Addis Ababa.

Guerrilla liberation fronts from Eritrea and Tigre have combined forces in resisting the Amhara government in Addis Ababa. Whereas Eritrea wants total independence, Tigre is fighting for self-determination. The civil war raging through the regions of Eritrea, Tigre, Gonder and Wollo is impeding relief efforts in areas which are also most affected by the drought.

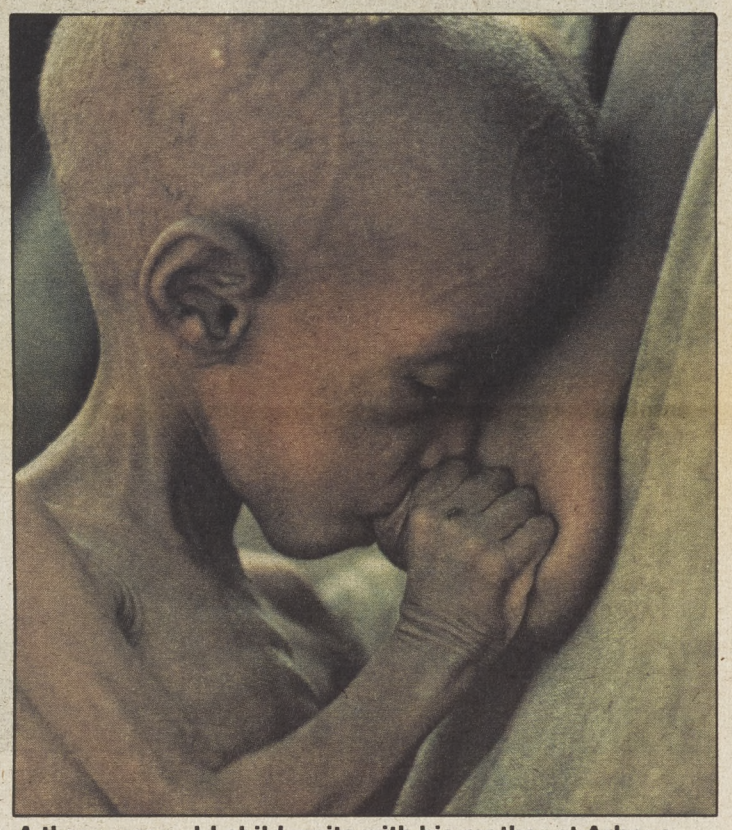
The civil war could be causing security problems making it difficult for relief supplies to get through to the affected areas.

Transportation poses still another problem. Ethiopia's transportation infrastructure is skeletal. The terrain is difficult. Major roads are good, but most of the population lives off the roads and far from the food distribution centers.

The United Nations' first appeal (April 1983) for international assistance was based on an estimated three million drought-affected people, most of whom are concentrated in the northern regions: Gonder (300,000 people), Wollo (800,000-850,000), Tigre (1,000,000) and Eritrea (400,000). The U.N. agencies, estimating only one million of these people are accessible, requested $30 to $35 million to reach them.



Workers armed with guns protect the arriving grain at the Arbaya landing sight. Photo by Anthony Suau



A three-year-old child waits with his mother at Arbaya. The child is severely malnourished and marasmic, probably not alive today. Many never make it here because of a several-day walk. Photo by Anthony Suau



Thousands wait in the heat in Arbaya for the possibility of grain distribution. Photo by Anthony Suau

The politics of hunger

When a similar drought struck Ethiopia in 1973-74, then-Emperor Haile Selassie ignored it and some 250,000 people died of starvation. In September 1982, the government alerted the international donating comunity that two million Ethiopians needed emergency relief.

The United States aid program to Ethiopia was closed in 1979 when the Ethiopian military government seized the property of a number of American citizens without compensation.

The Hickenlooper Amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act requires a cutoff of American Development Aid in such cases, but it exempts humanitarian assistance from such a cutoff.

In the absence of a regular A.I.D. mission, U.S. Food for Peace commodities have been provided to Ethiopia through the Maternal-Child Health (MCH) feeding program of Catholic Relief Services. The program was in operation before the current drought emergency.

USAID has provided over $8.4 million in drought relief and food assistance to Ethiopia in 1983. Approximately $2.5 million has been for emergency feeding programs, $2.2 million for non-food emergency assistance, and $3.6 million for the regular CRS feeding programs.

Starvation and malnutrition

Food deficits in the 1983 drought year were estimated at 350,000 metric tons. From 50 to 60 percent of the children were considered malnourished, and 50- to 100-a-day infant mortality was predicted, or 15 of every 100 children born. Twenty-seven to 35 of every 100 children are expected to die before age five.

Nutritional data accumulated in the Catholic Relief Services Nutritional Program indicates that one-third of the children attending in Addis Ababa were undernourished.

The situation in the northern areas of Tigray province portray a picture much worse. In Makelle, 40 percent of the children are undernourished and outside of Makelle the figures reach 50 percent.



Mothers are provided food and taught how to prepare it at mother-child health (MCH) centers near Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia. Government operated, the centers receive food from USAID distributed through Catholic Relief Services. USAID has provided more than $8.4 million in drought and food assistance to Ethiopia since 1983.

Meeting the emergency

Catholic Relief Services USA sponsors an emergency feeding program in Makale, in the Tigre province, of blended and fortified foods, along with a $74,000 World Food Program which supplies instant corn-soy milk, to account for the $2.5 million USAID program.

CRS also received a $25,000 cash grant for the start-up costs for the Makale emergency program and $709,000 cash grant to expand the emergency program in Tigre through leasing transport in order to move the relief supplies.

Finally, CRS received 8,172 metric tons of food, valued at $3,694,000, for a feeding program in the Shoa and Harreghe regions.

For 1984, the United States has approved a continuation of the CRS programs, now valued at $5,001,000 (including transportation of the food to Ethiopia), and will provide 11,000 tons of food assistance to vulnerable groups in Ethiopia.

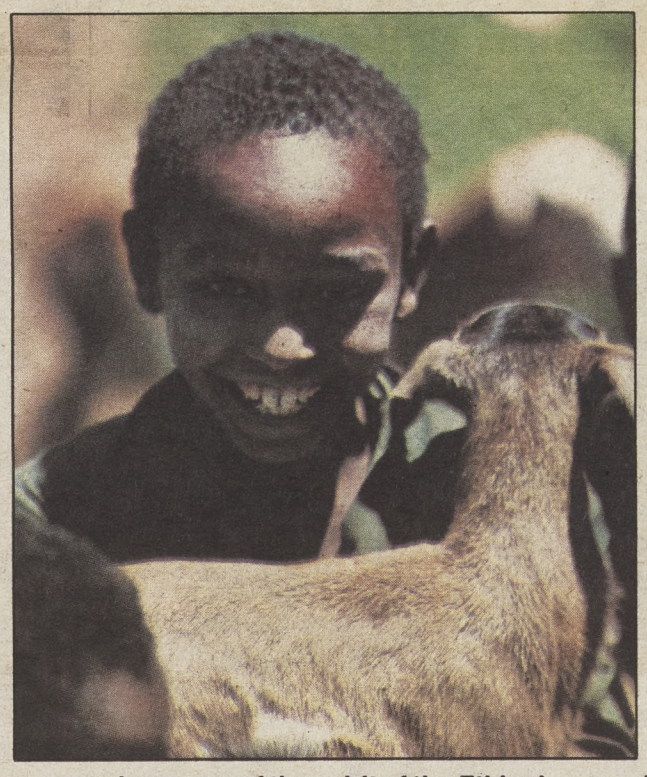
For 1984, the United States has approved a continuation of the CRS nutrition program in Shoa and Harreghe regions. In addition, the special famine emergency program has received support in the amount of 5,807 tons from the U.S. government and the European economic community.

CRS is continuing to request additional assistance to expand the distributions to needy families in Northern Tigray and Eritrea. From its own funds, CRS has channeled over $300,000 towards the purchase of seeds, medicines and blankets.

CRS will provide 25,000 blankets to Makale and Wukro and 15,000 meters of cloth for 5,000 children.









In the photos above John Zierten catches some of the spirit of the Ethiopian people despite their hardships. In the faces of the children are the hopes for the future. The peasants are sturdy people.

One woman's story

Mrs. Maimouna Sermet is a subsistence farmer in Upper Volta. The small plot where she and her husband farmed for the past 10 years has been turned to dust by the encroachment of the desert. Her husband, Hamidou, has gone south in search for better land and a job to hold the family over. In the meantime, Mrs. Sermet carries water six hours a day to try to irrigate the arid soil enough to grow a few vegetables for her four children.

By Voltaic standards, she was comfortable until the current drought. Now, the little cash she had set aside was used to buy food for the family and a goat had to be sold to provide money for Mr. Sermet to live on during his trip south.

Most subsistence farmers in Africa make $50 to $100 in cash each year. That is used to buy whatever cannot be had by barter and to put a bit aside for an emergency. When a drought comes, families with money can buy food from the limited supplies available in the market. The majority of people, the subsistence farmers, do not have nearly enough precious cash saved to sustain them through an emergency that may last for two years, especially when their income is dependent on the land and the weather.

Like Maimouna Sermet and her family, they must look elsewhere for help. Many look to CRS feeding centers, where extra rations are given to help get the families through this trying time. Aid is given as generously as often-limited supplies will allow. For the Sermet family, though, the food from CRS is a life-saving supplement.

Ghana Today: A Hungry Nation



photo by JOHN ZIERTEN

When famine stalks the land, it is the children who suffer first. In Ghana, with a government more concerned with self-preservation than serving the people, half of the children suffer the effects of malnutrition

AN AFRICAN JOURNAL

GHANA TODAY

A hungry nation





Father Andrew Campbell, S.V.D., Irish missioner in a poverty-ridden parish in Accra, takes Father Vincent Giese on a walking tour of his neighborhood

SUNDAY, October 2

Our plane landed in early evening in Accra, the capital city of Ghana, once known under colonial rule as the Gold Coast, but renamed Ghana in March 1957 when it became West Africa's first independent country. The first president was Dr. Kwame Nkrumah.

Along the coast, the western part of Ghana overlooks the sea. The east is formed by the Volta basin. For a distance of 560 kilometers, sandy beaches mix with rocky cliffs along the Bay of Guinea, no more dramatically than at Accra, where breakers dash violently against the shore. Sand and rock combine in endless patterns.

Despite its coastal beauty, we quickly learned that not all is beautiful inside this once prosperous African nation. Political unrest combined with economic chaos have all but left the country in shambles.

On top of this, natural disasters of drought and fiery harmattan winds have parched the earth and caused all kinds of famine-like conditions.

Inflation has shot food prices rocketing, more than wages, as food production has fallen off. An estimated 50 percent of the children are below the third health percentile of American children.

All this we learned Sunday evening over a cold beer at the Sunset Lodge Hotel in Accra, in a debriefing session.

The present socialist government of Flt. Lt. Jerry J. Rawlings, who retook the country in 1981 in a military coup, is not friendly with the United States government.

When an official accused the CIA of destablizing Ghana, the U.S. cut off all economic aid to Ghana, except for Title II foods, which Catholic Relief Services administers for humanitarian reasons. Hopefully, the economic help will come again soon.

A curfew for 10:00 p.m. was in effect, but we were safely tucked into our hotel. The curfew is designed to keep troublemakers at bay.

The next day we began our visit of Ghana, but first we had to call on the minister of information to get press credentials.

Monday, October 3

Although it was late afternoon before we got clearance from the minister of information, we already had a full day of picture-taking under our belts. Somehow the bureaucracy always breaks down when a government is more concerned with self-preservation than with serving the people.

In the morning we visited a poverty-stricken inner-city parish in Accra. It reminded me of the near west side of Chicago.

Father Andrew Campbell, S.V.D., an Irish priest, has been pastor the past seven years. He laughs now about being placed in charge of such a huge parish at such a young age of 30.

Sacred Heart parish is indeed huge. It would put most priests to the test. In an area embracing 100,000 people, Father Andrew is a one-priest mission band for 2,000 Catholic families. In addition, he has Sacred Heart School of 500 students. Princess Marie Louise Hospital for malnourished babies, and two prisons under his care.

We toured the school, which is broken down into three forms: six to 12 year-olds, 12 to 16, and a vocational school where girls learn secretarial skills and dressmaking.

In the Accra Diocese, there are 12 to 15 parishes in a population of 1.5 million, but the Catholic Church is growing steadily and makes up 12 percent of the people. There are an estimated 27 percent Muslims, 50 percent Christians, the rest Animists, a tribal religion.

Father Campbell marvels at the spirit of the people under such hardships. "They celebrate. They try to forget. They have known better times, as recent as 10 years ago," he says. Then he adds, wistfully, "I hardly know how to preach during Advent and Lent anymore. Our people are fasting all the time. What do I tell them?"

It is especially the older folks and the young who suffer the most. "Nobody cares about the elderly," he says.

"Send us some priests. We need priests," he pleaded. Then his face lit up as he told us that each Saturday night a parish takes a turn feeding the prisoners. Rice and fish are prepared by the people in their homes, then taken to the prisons to provide a home-cooked meal. His youth group also takes rice regularly to the children's hospital.

At noon the church bell pealed and Father Andrew invited us to recite the Angelus with him.

* * *

Father Campbell accompanied us to Princess Marie Louise Children's Hospital in his parish, named after a granddaughter of Queen Victoria. We were greeted by Dr. Herman Odoi, a lively Ghanaian doctor, who is very proud of his hospital.

We began to see the scope of the malnutrition which afflicts Ghana, even in the city, as Dr. Odoi gave us a tour of his crowded, primitive, but clean, facility where he provides comprehensive care for mothers and babies.

The emphasis is on preventative care, nutritional guidance for mothers, and feeding provided by Catholic Relief Services. The hospital has 31 beds and treats 200 well-babies a day. From 60 to 100 badly malnourished children are treated on a regular basis.

We saw it all, from immunization, weighing of babies to keep track of growth, nutritional courses for mothers, the treatment of disease, much by paramedics recruited from rural areas and trained, a lab and pharmacy.

Mothers and babies stay here up to six weeks, 50 or 60 on the average, where they do their own cooking and learn how to prepare foods. The emphasis is on breast-feeding. All kinds of diseases caused by malnutrition are treated here. Dehydration, anemia, malaria, rashes and skin diseases,

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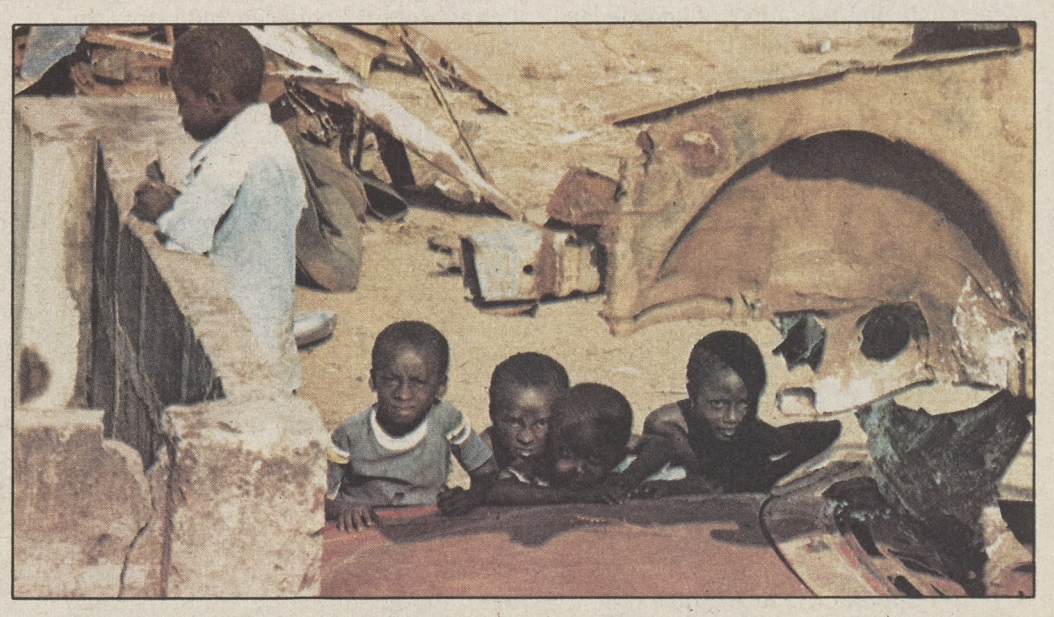
Ghana's long-suffering people are undeserving of the economic and political chaos that has brought this once prosperous African nation to a standstill



A mother bathes her child for a severe skin disease at Princess Marie Louise Children's Hospital, where hospital director Dr. Herman Odoi looks on



Malnourished children, rampant diseases, and high infant mortality rates are the effects of famine and drought



Children in central Accra, where open sewers and refuse pollute the drinking water



Joan Mitchell, staff worker with Catholic Relief Services, with young people at Ab Adum, 50 miles outside Accra, where CRS conducts a feeding program for mothers and preschoolers. The emphasis is on preventative health care

(Continued from page 8)

worms, stomach disorders, stunted growth, to name a few.

A new hospital is under construction, but like all projects in Ghana, it is almost at a standstill. Dr. Odoi and his staff are hopeful the new facility will offer comprehensive health care.

I left thinking of our over-developed, duplicating health services back home, and I began to wonder about it all. In Ghana they do so much with so little.

* * *

Dr. Benedicta Ababio is a government health administrator for the Greater Accra region. She received us graciously and was a font of knowledge. Her area is the smallest but most populous region in Ghana — 1.4 million people, one-tenth of the population of Ghana, 14 by 18 miles, with a steady influx of people from the rural areas.

Cholera is at epidemic stage — 1,000 new cases in July in the Accra area, caused by environmental problems of refuse, human excrement and contaminated water, all conducive to the disease pattern in the area of cholera, malaria, worms, diarrhea and malnutrition among children.

Like Dr. Odoi, Dr. Ababio is also concerned with preventive health care. The government's goal for the 1980s is to reduce illness and death by 80 percent and increase health care by 80 percent. A tall order.

Her approach is to go into the community for the education of mothers, immunization of babies, train local people, provide home services and medicines for de-worming the children.

There are now 70 centers in the Accra region in 14 communities. We visited several the next day, where CRS provides the feeding.

Vaccines are in need. Some come from UNICEF, the EEC (European Economic Community) and WHO (World Health Organization), but the flow has slowed because of transportation and storage problems. Electricity is sporadic. Vaccines spoil. Drugs must come from the outside, because there is limited manufacture in Ghana.

The population is growing. Families average 6.5 children, but after five, there is great risk. Food for children is not available locally.

Preventative medicine at the local level. That's what it is all about.

* * *

Bishop Dominick Andoh is the bishop of Accra and president of the Conference of Bishops. Today, he tells us, all the bishops of Ghana, since 1975, are African.

A friendly, outgoing man of 54, Bishop Andoh and I discovered we both studied in Rome at the same time, he at the Propaganda Fide, I at the Beda College.

There are 185,000 Catholics in the Accra Diocese of 1.5 million people, or about 12 percent. Some of the top cabinet members of the government are Catholic, including Flt. Lt. Rawlings.

"These are very difficult, revolutionary times for the people," Bishop Andoh says. "One problem follows another and there does not seem to be any improvement at all in our living conditions.

"The drought in the north and west is bringing more people into Accra. Our friends in Libya could treat us better. We are not getting the promised oil. We wait for weeks in queues for petrol."

Bishop Andoh, who has visited the United States, is appreciative of the aid being received through Catholic Relief Services. His own diocesan paper has not published for months because there is no paper, no ink, no film available.

* * *

At the end of our first day in Ghana, I saw similarities between Ghana and Poland. Shortages of everything, long lines, empty stores, play-like money that is almost worthless, a military Marxist government which blames everything on Western imperialism.

The people — the most literate in all of Africa — deserve better. But, as one Ghanaian expressed it, "perhaps we are too literate. We sit around and philosophize about ideologies, but we don't seem to want to get involved in the political process."

Tuesday, October 4

We went on a field trip some 50 miles outside Accra to visit nutritional health centers for mothers and babies. They are government centers, but Catholic Relief Services, with U.S. foodstuffs, provides food and medicines. The two centers we visited are west of Accra along the coast, at Swedru and Ab Adum. Then we went to Winneba for a picnic lunch.

It was a pleasant day in the country as we drove leisurely along and took pictures of village life.

Our first stop was at a now-familiar health center, in Swedru, where CRS supplies the food, scales and charts for tracking the growth of the children. Here 1,000 mothers with "well babies" are cared for, in addition to 560 malnourished babies. They were receiving diphtheria injections. The malnourished are treated twice a week on an outpatient basis.

The clinic at Ab Adum was much the same. There is almost a festive spirit at these clinics where mothers of pre-schoolers come together with their children to spend the day, receive help, cook, learn, receive food at a small purchase price. The children were eager to have their pictures taken and playfully followed the strange white folks from America.

Our journey was made in a covered pickup truck. I rode up front with the driver. In the back, on comfortable chairs borrowed from the CRS office, were Beth Griffin, John Zierten, Joan Mitchell from the Ghana CRS office,

and Hannah Evans-Luttrodt, food and nutrition director. A Ghanian, Hannah knows her way around the bureaucracy.

Joan, newly arrived in Ghana, prepared a beautiful picnic lunch.
We stopped along the beach at Winneba, a rustic fishing village, for lunch. John Zierten captured the life of the fishing village on this Tuesday — a day of honoring the god of the sea. The men do not fish on Tuesdays, but stay in the village repairing their nets and making new thatches for their primitive grass huts.

We walked the village still untouched by modern civilization, among a friendly people who did not object to our picture-taking.

Fishing continues to be the sole source of livelihood for coastal dwellers. The men put out to sea at night and return at dawn, to be greeted by the women in festive dress to help them bring in the catch.

It was our first of several visits to fishing villages.

We returned to Accra, once more reinforced in our impression that malnutrition and preventative health care are the number one problem in a nation suffering from hunger.

Wednesday, October 5

Our visit to Ghana was winding down as we prepared for the next leg of our African journey to drought-ridden Ethiopia.



Bishop Dominick Andoh, bishop of Accra's 185,000 Catholics

The loose ends were pulled together in an interview with Nancy Keteku, an American from Boston, who is married to a Ghanaian engineer educated at M.I.T.

Nancy wrapped up our visit for us with a report on CRS/Ghana. To date CRS is operating in more than 800 centers in Ghana where food is distributed.

Some 250 of these are Mother Child Health centers (MCH), like the ones we visited in Swedru and Ab Adum. There are 418 school lunch programs, 77 Food for Work projects, and other child feeding programs.

The incentive for the mothers to attend the health centers is food. In exchange for food, the mothers must come for immunization, nutritional education, and have their child's weight charted on a regular basis.

From the people of the United States, some $12 million worth of foodstuffs will be coming into Ghana in 1984, to be distributed by Catholic Relief Services. The aid consists of sorghum, which is high in vitamin B and protein; wheat soya, a flour-like blend which is excellent as a weaning food; and soy bean oil for everyday cooking.

In addition, CRS brings in vitamins, cough syrup, anti-worm medicines and drugs for malaria, diarrhea, and aspirin for use in MCH programs.

* * *

A visit to the secretariat of the Conference of Catholic Bishops, where the energetic Father Hilary Seeno is secretary, added still another report on aid to the malnourished. Father Seeno and his staff are deeply involved in the hunger problem in Ghana. His economic development office is focused on feeding people. It encourages and helps people establish small farms to grow vegetables and supplement their incomes.

Sister Ancilla, an Irish nun with 30 years experience in health care, heads the conference health programs. She had just returned from the north where anemia is rampant. The greatest need is in the rural areas, we are told over and over. But now Accra is also in a crisis stage.

* * *

Indeed garden projects are catching hold. We visited one in Accra where CRS sponsors a Food for Work project for the various departments of a local construction company. Construction work has come to a halt now, but the various departments take turns each week to develop a community garden project. They have cleared the land, planted, weeded and were harvesting when we visited the area. A dozen workers were working that day.

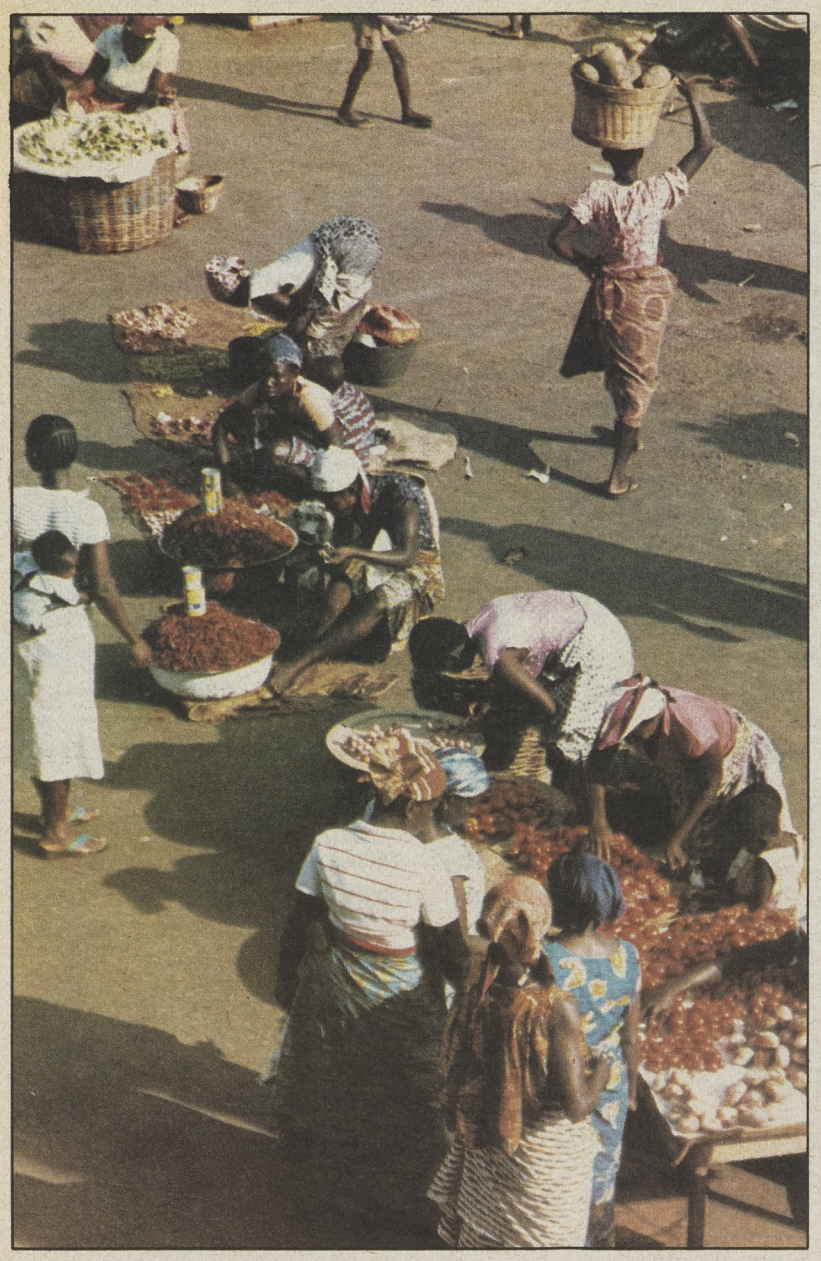
They rotate. One week, the administrative staff of the company comes, then the accounts department, the planning staff, the workers. It is developing into a model farm for other companies to emulate.

Shortages of petrol has slowed the program down, as it has most projects in Ghana. It is called Food for Work. The workers get food from CRS and hand tools for their initiatives.

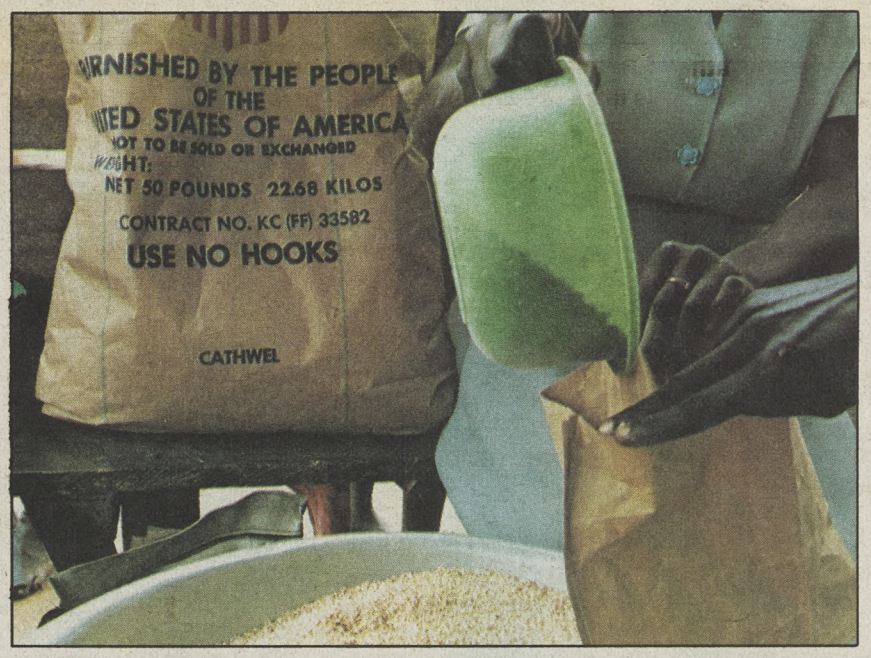
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So our stay in Ghana came to a close with a beautiful reception and dinner at the home of the CRS director in Ghana. We received a home-cooked meal at last. Bishop Andoh and Father Seeno graced us with their presence.

We left Ghana with a good feeling about these long-suffering people who deserve a better fate. We hope our stay will alert American Catholics to the needs of our brothers and sisters in West Africa.□



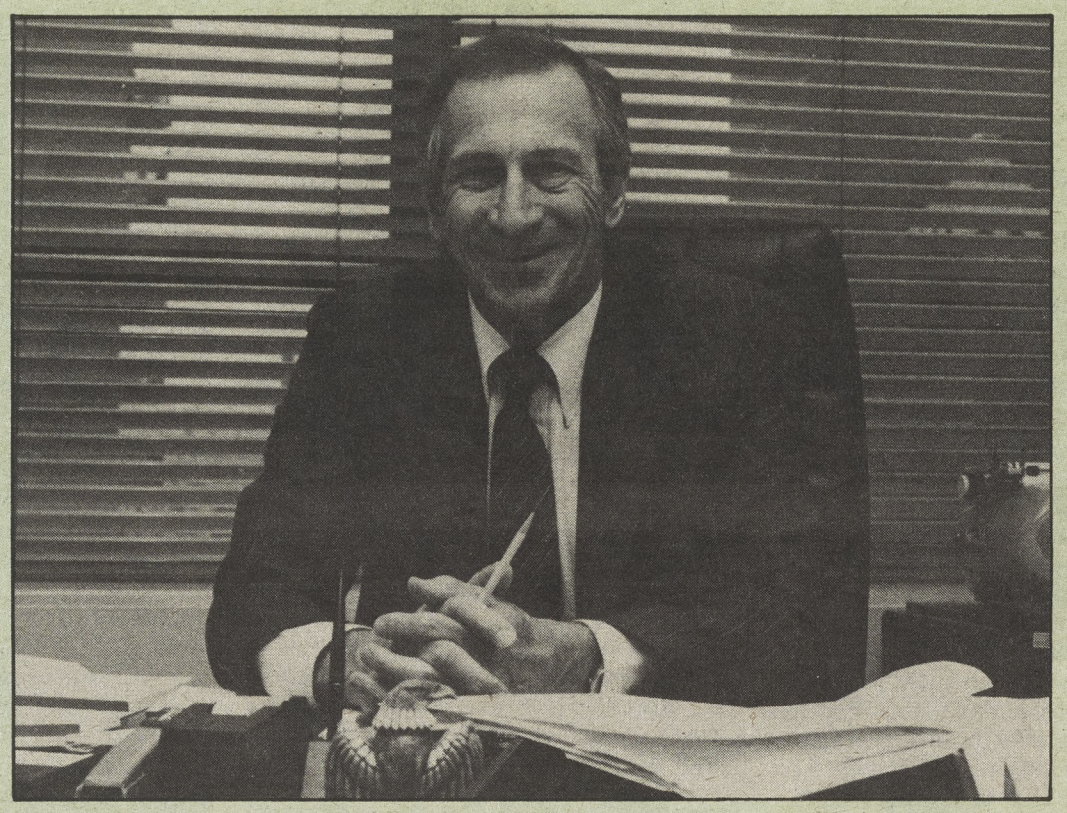
No supermarkets in Ghana, but farmers' markets abound. Shelves of stores are bare



Catholic Relief Services supplies USAID footstuffs to more than 800 feeding stations in Ghana. Sorghum, wheat soya and vegetable oil are distributed



Father Andrew Campbell has a 500-student school in his one-priest inner-city parish of 2,000 Catholics



Dear Friends,

The people of Africa need our help. This special edition shows what Catholic Relief Services is doing to alleviate the human suffering caused by drought, famine and civil strife.

In 22 countries, some 30 million people face death. We don't pretend to be able to save all the lives or to solve all the problems, but we can make life easier for some of these needy brothers and sisters and we can save some lives. Catholic Relief Services has been working in Africa for 25 years. We are well-known and respected for our humanitarian assistance. When we began to hear from our directors throughout Africa that the drought and famine were affecting more people daily, we arranged to provide extra food and money. With our help, 1,005,000 people in Ethiopia, Ghana, Upper Volta, Lesotho and Mauritania will receive life-saving food. In addition, 1.5 million participate in our on-going programs for mothers and their pre-school children in 19 countries of sub-Sahara Africa.

We are proud of our work and welcome your support and interest. The drought and famine are not going to disappear overnight. With your help, the effects can be less devastating.

Sincerely,

Lawrence A. Pezzullo
Executive Director

CRS† CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES
1011 FIRST AVENUE, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022 (212) 838-4700

Clip and Mail to: Catholic Relief Services
1011 First Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Enclosed is my donation to help CRS alleviate suffering in Africa.

Name _____

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State _____ Zip _____

Your tax-deductible contribution will be gratefully received.

The AFRICAN REPORT: ETHIOPIA/GHANA is a combined effort of Catholic Relief Services and Our Sunday Visitor, Inc. OSV Editor-in-Chief Father Vincent Giese and Director of Graphics John Zierten travelled with CRS staff to projects in Ghana and Ethiopia. The stories and photos from their trip were originally published in OSV during November, 1983. Additional photos were taken by Anthony Suau, photographer for the Denver Post.

Additional copies of this REPORT are available from Catholic Relief Services, Attention Communications, 1011 First Avenue, New York, NY 10022. For bulk orders of 100 or more, please include check or money order for fifteen cents per copy.